

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI; PINT;,, JA

SUBJ: PORT VISIT OF U.S.S. DURHAM TO KAGOSHIMA

IN CONNECTION WITH VISIT OF AMBASSADOR HODGSON TO KAGOSHIMA, I RECENTLY HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PORT VISIT OF USS DURHAM TO KAGOSHIMA WITH GOVERNOR, MAYOR, AND OTHER OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY MIYAUCHI, WHO DID LIAISON WORK WITH PREFECTURE. VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS, WITH CALLS BY CAPTAIN ON GOVERNOR, CITY OFFICIAL, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, POLICE, AND MARITIME SAFETY OFFICE, NUMBER OF THESE OFFICIALS ATTENDED LUNCH ABOARD SHIP,

PAGE TWO RUADLTA8603 C O N F I D E N T I A L

AND PREFECTURE AND CITY GOVERNMENTS SPONSORED LUNCH IN RETURN.

PREFECTURE PROVIDED TWO AUTOMOBILES FOR USE BY DURHAM'S OFFICERS,

AND CREW TEAM ENGAGED IN ATHLETIC EVENT WITH LOCAL TEAM.

WE ARE ESPECIALLY PLEASED (AND SOMEWHAT SURPRISED) BY ATTITUDE OF MAYOR. ALTHOUGH MAYOR DID NOT MEET ANY OFFICERS, CITY TREASURER IS NEXT RANKING CITY OFFICIAL, AND CO-SPONSORING OF LUNCH SEEMS ABOVE AND BEYOND CALL OF DUTY FOR MAYOR, WHO, AS POINTED OUT IN REFTTEL, IS SOCIALIST, AND ALMOST CERTAINLY OPPOSES SECURITY TREATY.

MAYOR GOT IN HOT WATER OVER VISIT BY SHIP, I WAS TOLD BY SUETAKA HATANAKA, CHAIRMAN OF MINAMI NIHON BROADCASTING COMPANY. HATANAKA SAID EVENING OF MARCH 12 THAT GROUP OF COMMUNISTS HAD BLOCKADED

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MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR BRIEF TIME, ASKING WHAT SO-CALLED REFORMIST

MAYOR WAS DOING ALLOWING PORT VISIT BY AMERICAN SHIP, AND CO-SPONSORING LUNCH FOR ITS OFFICERS.

COMMENT: SUCCESS OF VISIT AND ATTITUDE OF VARIOUS OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT PORT VISITS CAN BE TURNED INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN PAST. COURTESY CALLS AND EXCHANGE OF LUNCHES DOUBTLESS DOES MORE FOR JAPANESE EGOS THAN SIMPLY REQUESTING NAVIGATIONAL INSTRUCTION AND ASKING FOR GARBAGE SERVICES. DURHAM VISIT WAS POSITIVE FACTOR, AND AMCONSULATE FUKUOKA, AGAIN OFFERS TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO ASSIST WITH THEM.
RICHARDSON

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